



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 5

77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD

CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

JUN 07 2012

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

E-19J

Estella Holmes
U.S. Air Force
5735 Pearson Road, Building 10, Room 252
Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio 45433-5543

Re: Final Environmental Impact Statement for Entry Control Reconfiguration and Base Perimeter Fence Relocation in Area A, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Fairborn, Montgomery County, Ohio - EIS No. 20120140

Dear Ms. Holmes:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has reviewed the referenced Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) prepared by the 88th Air Base Wing (88 ABW) pursuant to our authorities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

The proposed project involves re-routing State Route 444 (SR 444) at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base (WPAFB), including re-locating portions of the existing perimeter fence to comply with Anti-Terrorism Force Protection (ATFP) requirements set forth by the Department of Defense (DoD). Under the ATFP regulation, the stand-off distance between on-base buildings and the base perimeter fence is required to be a minimum of 82 feet. Currently, buildings are as close as 60 feet. The project consists of five major actions:

1. Relocate and reconfigure Gate 1A north of existing Gate 39A, and demolish Gate 39A.
2. Reconfigure Gate 15A to extend past Communications Boulevard (main gate).
3. Relocate Gate 16A functions to Gate 26A. Gate 16A will remain open.
4. Relocate and reconfigure Gate 26A north of the Circle Drive/State Route 235 intersection. A 14-stall commercial vehicle parking lot will also be constructed for vehicle inspections.
5. Relocate the existing base perimeter fence south of Gate 9A, including across SR 444 between Gates 15A and 1A. SR 444 traffic will be re-routed on Dayton-Yellow Springs Road.

88 ABW has selected Alternative A as the preferred alternative.

We are pleased to see 88 ABW has considered comments from our December 22, 2011 comment letter on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). We are pleased to see 88 ABW has offered to construct various forms of green infrastructure at WPAFB, including vegetated swales and energy-efficient buildings. We encourage 88 ABW to commit to constructing green infrastructure at WPAFB in the Record of Decision.

Additionally, we are pleased to see improvements in the modeled performance for multiple intersections. Two intersections, Dayton-Yellow Springs Road & Kauffman Avenue, and Dayton Drive & Central Avenue, are still projected to be Level of Service-F (LOS-F) for the morning commute. As we understand, the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) has begun additional analyses of those two intersections to identify site-specific solutions. We support ODOT's additional analyses of those two intersections, since LOS-F will likely be unacceptable to most motorists.

EPA is available to discuss these comments on the Final EIS at your convenience. Please feel free to contact Mike Sedlacek of my staff at 312-886-1765, or by email at sedlacek.michael@epa.gov.

Sincerely,



Kenneth A. Westlake, Chief
NEPA Implementation Section
Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance

cc: Mark Vonder Embse, FHWA
Melanie Cota, USFWS
Debbie Woischke, Ohio DNR
Tim Hill, Ohio DOT